



Illinois Department of Employment Security

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Update on Federal Extended Unemployment Insurance Programs

On 12/17/2010, President Obama signed legislation, extending the emergency unemployment compensation (EUC) and extended benefit (EB) programs. The Department will begin releasing payments that had to be withheld, pending enactment of the extension, after certification for the week of December 11. There should not be any delay in payments for other weeks, as long as the claimant has submitted timely certifications for those weeks.

Under the legislation, the number of weeks of unemployment benefits available to an Illinois claimant will still generally range from a minimum of 26 to a maximum of 99; however, not everyone will be entitled to the maximum number of weeks. The number of payable weeks of EUC and EB depends on whether an individual meets the EB and EUC eligibility criteria, when an individual's claim was initially filed and the federal phase out rules.

The maximum 99 weeks of benefits include

- 26 weeks of regular state benefits,
- 53 weeks of EUC, in four separate tiers of 20, 14, 13 and 6 weeks,
- 20 weeks of EB.

The new legislation establishes the following new cutoff dates for the EUC and EB programs:*

- EUC – Must have exhausted regular benefits by 12/24/2011 to be placed on EUC.
- EUC – Must have exhausted an EUC tier by 12/31/2011 to move to the next tier of EUC benefits.
- EB will terminate in Illinois 1/7/2012. No payments on EB will be made for weeks ending after this date.

The legislation does not extend the total number of weeks beyond 99 or extend the federal additional compensation (FAC) program, which terminated as of 12/11/10.

This site will provide further updates.